

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

In order to advance the prosecution of this application, original Claims 1-8 have been cancelled in favor of new Claims 9-17. Claim 9 is an independent claim reciting the subject matter of original Claim 2. Claim 10 is an independent Claim reciting the subject matter of original Claim 3. Claim 11 is an independent claim reciting the subject matter of original Claim 4. Minor changes have been made in the wording of these claims for clarity and to overcome the objections to Claims 2-4.

Claims 12 and 13 correspond to Claims 5 and 6 modified to incorporate language suggested by the Examiner with respect to Claims 5 and 6.

Claims 15-17 avoid the basis of the rejection of Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

The indicated allowability of the subject matter of Claims 2-4 and 5-7/₂₋₄ is noted with appreciation.

Claims 1, 5-7/₁ and 8 are no longer being presented, so that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is moot.

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, then such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NHS:sjk/kss

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